

## **ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:*

***Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Meeting  
Monday, November 23, 2015  
4:00 PM***

### *AGENDA*

*Arlington School Committee and Human Rights Commission*

*Arlington High School  
869 Mass Avenue  
Arlington, MA*

### *Public Participation*

#### *September 2015 Minutes to Review*

- *Draft Minutes September 8, 2015*

*Presentation and discussion of data provided by Superintendent Bodie and Ms. Neville*

### *Adjournment*

*The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

*Stated times and time amounts, listed in parenthesis, are the estimated amount of time for that particular agenda item. Actual times may be shorter or longer depending on the time needed to fully explore the topic.*

*Submitted by Sharon Grossman*



## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

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### **September 2015 Minutes to Review**

#### **Summary:**

- Draft Minutes September 8, 2015

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Type	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Minutes	Draft minutes 9 8 2015 for Approval

AHRC/SC Joint Committee

DRAFT Minutes 9/8/15 at 6pm in the AHS Media Center

Present: Superintendent Kathleen Bodie, SC Members William Hayner, Judson Pierce, Jennifer Susse, AHRC Members Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Business Office and Special Projects Paula Nevil

Motion to Approve Minutes of 4/1/15 made by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Mr. Horowitz, unanimous approval.

General note, suspensions in Arlington are quite rare. Information from the 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 school year was handed out, names and identifying information was held back. Ms. Grossman will confer with Town Counsel to determine if a future executive session may be convened to go over data that discusses suspension by race. There are limits to what may be shared with the Committee because these are student records.

Ms. Nevil discussed the use of power school data and that data entry accuracy is key for optimal use. APS is trying to match our codes with state and federal codes so we can be more accurate. The committee reviewed suspension reasons that are more discretionary, that is a reason like physical violence is more clear for a suspension to take place than defying authority. We now have a new person working with power school and a different registrar going over codes to make a better more simplified process. The 2013-2014 data shows suspension days going down significantly.

Mr. Hayner asked if there were any incidents involving substitutes. It was noted that there are no substitutes at AHS and there are building substitutes at OMS. It was noted that Mill Brook has been a successful program reducing the need for suspensions.

Mr. Hayner asked if it is documented what a student says which leads to his/her suspension and the answer was only if there is an appeal. Principals take notes but these do not make it into Power School.

Ms. Grossman asked how many times does a student have to do something negative to trigger a suspension and the answer is that there is progressive discipline prior to a suspension. Dr. Bodie is confident in evenness and fairness. Dr. Bodie noted that there were 26 incidents at AHS and that does not mean 26 students. That is a very small number, the proportion of suspensions is higher at AHS than at OMS.

Dr. Susse asked if staff and administrators might be reading the acts of students differently. Dr. Bodie mentioned that principals are aware of teachers who may exhibit less tolerance and work with those teachers on that issue.

Regarding students with disabilities for any suspension there must be a manifestation hearing. If the act is related to the disability there is no suspension.

Next meeting will be in October and some dates will be sent out via Doodle. Mr. Pierce moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hayner. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 7:22pm.

